

SENATE WATCH

A summary of today's Senate actions; published daily when the Senate is in session.

6/1/05

FINAL PASSAGE

SB 365 (Hardiman)

SB 365 would rename the State Treasury Building as the "Richard H. Austin Department of State Building".

- SB 365 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (5/31)
- SB 365 passed [RC 184: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

SB 462 (SWITALSKI)

SB 462 would change the deadline to file a declaration of intent to be a write-in candidate from 4 p.m. on the Friday immediately preceding the election to 4 p.m. on the Tuesday immediately before the election. The current Friday deadline occurs so close to the day of the election that some municipal clerks do not have sufficient time to train their election workers properly.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (5/31)
- SB 462 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 462 passed [RC 185: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

SB 512 (Hammerstrom)

SB 512 would allow a single municipality to establish a district library. The bill would also require that a proposal for a district-wide tax be certified for inclusion on the ballot at the next general election, the State primary immediately preceding the general election, or a special election held on an otherwise regularly scheduled election date.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (5/31)
- SB 512 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 512 passed [RC 177: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

SB 513 (Hammerstrom)

SB 513 would make technical changes to school election consolidation laws.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (5/31)
- SB 513 was moved to 3rd Reading.

• SB 513 passed [RC 178: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

SB 514 (Cassis)

SB 514 would make technical changes to school election consolidation laws.

- SB 514 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (5/31)
- SB 514 passed [RC 179: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

SB 515 (Cassis)

SB 515 would delete provisions pertaining to regular community college elections and nominating petitions and filing deadlines for candidates for community college boards. The bill specifies that candidates for the office of member of a community college board would be nominated and elected as provided under the Michigan election law.

- SB 515 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (5/31)
- SB 515 passed [RC 180: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

SB 516-18 (Allen)

SBs 516-18 would allow villages and cities to provide for staggered terms for locally elected officials.

SB 516:

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (5/31)
- SB 516 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 516 passed [RC 181: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

SB 517:

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (5/31)
- SB 517 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 517 passed [RC 182: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

SB 518:

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted. (5/31)
- SB 518 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 518 passed [RC 183: 37 ves. 0 nol. (6/1)

HB 4356 (Rocca)

HB 4356 would expand current law that specifies triple damage liability for offenses related to embezzling, stealing, receiving, and concealing stolen property to also apply to the person who embezzled, stole, or converted the property. The bill would also include possessing and concealing among the list of conducts that gives rise to the action.

Recently, a victim of embezzlement tried to bring an action against the person who embezzled to recover damages, but the state appeals court held that the law as currently written only applies to the person receiving or buying the stolen property, and not to the person who actually took the property illegally. The bill would allow a victim to at least attempt to receive some monetary compensation for the damages that he or she suffered as a result of the crime. The bill would not interfere with any criminal charges or penalties that the perpetrator may

face. In addition, the corresponding criminal statutes were amended in 1979 to include the acts of "possessing" and "concealing" in the list of conduct for which a criminal charge could be brought; the bill would therefore incorporate these acts in the statute pertaining to recovering treble damages.

- HB 4356 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments. (5/31)
- HB 4356 passed with IE [RC 176: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

HB 4702 (Pavlov) HB 4703 (Pearce)

<u>HB 4702</u> would add video games to the obscenity laws. The bill addresses the problem of retailers selling or renting video games to minors that contain sexually explicit scenes. It does not address games considered to be violent. By specifically listing "video game" in the definition of sexually explicit performance and sexually explicit visual material, knowingly selling, renting, or lending a video game to a person 17 years of age or younger that contained images deemed as sexually explicit matter harmful to minors would subject a retailer (or anyone else) to the penalties outlined in the act – a felony punishable by up to two years imprisonment and/or a fine of not more than \$10,000.

- Committee 1 (1 amend) was adopted. Effective date of 12/1/05. (5/31)
- HB 4702 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- HB 4702 passed with IE [RC 174: 36 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

<u>HB 4703</u> would require information regarding a video game rating system to be posted where video games are sold or rented. The bill would require retailers who sell or rent video games to post a sign either with information about industry rating systems or that information on rating systems is available to customers upon request. A similar measure was enacted in California last year. The rating systems reflect the content of the video games and therefore help a parent determine whether a particular game is appropriate for his or her child.

- Committee 1 (2 amends) was adopted. Effective date of 12/1/05. (5/31)
- HB 4703 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- HB 4703 passed with IE [RC 175: 37 yes, 0 no]. (6/1)

THIRD READING

SB 286 (Cropsey)

SB 286 would require online dating services to disclose whether or not it had conducted criminal background checks on its members.

- Committee 1 (S-2) was adopted. (3/23)
- Cropsey 1A (2 amends) was adopted.
- Cropsey 1B (1 amend) was adopted.
- JACOBS 1C (2 amends) was defeated.
- *Garcia 1D (2 amends) was adopted.*
- CHERRY 1E (1 amend) was adopted.
- BRATER 1F (1 amend) was defeated.
- SCHAUER 1G (1 amend) was defeated.
- SCHAUER 1H (1 amend) was defeated.
- SCHAUER 11 (1 amend) was defeated.

- JACOBS 1J (2 amends) was withdrawn.
- Bishop 1K was defeated.
- SB 286 was moved to 3rd Reading.
- SB 286 was re-referred back to committee. (6/1)

SB 412 (PRUSI)

SB 412 would include capital maintenance improvements as allowable projects undertaken by the State Building Authority (SBA). The bill would allow the state to bond for repairs to state or higher education buildings such as roof replacement and other high dollar, long term repairs which are depreciable under the IRS code.

• SB 412 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

SB 498 (BARCIA)

SB 498 would delay the sunset date on a fee exempting a person from liability after the completion of a baseline environmental assessment. The fee presently is scheduled to sunset on June 5, 2005; the fee under the bill would expire on June 5, 2007. According to the Department of Environmental Quality, it usually collects approximately \$315,000 in annual revenue from over 420 petitions for a determination of liability exemption.

- Committee 1 (S-1) was adopted.
- SB 498 was moved to 3rd Reading.

HB 4469 (GLEASON) HB 4470 (LaJoy)

HBs 4469-70 (and HB 4082) would establish a heart insignia on the front of the driver license and state identification card and would change how the secretary of state approaches residents regarding organ and tissue donation. The bills are intended to enhance and strengthen the state's donor registry and increase the number of residents on the registry. Supporters say that a recent study estimated that 25 percent of Michigan driver's license holders would be registered donors within four years after implementation of policies similar to the other 41 states which have donor designation on their license. The heart insignia, coupled with questioning by the secretary of state upon renewal will increase Michigan's donor registry.

HB 4469:

• HB 4469 was moved to 3rd Reading. No amendments.

HB 4470:

- Committee 1 (S-1) was defeated.
- Hammerstrom 1A (2 amends) was withdrawn.
- Hammerstrom 2 (2 amends) was adopted.
- HB 4470 was moved to 3rd Reading.

RESOLUTIONS

SCR 14 (Johnson)

A concurrent resolution to increase the total project cost of the Iron Ore Museum project for the Department of History, Arts, and Libraries to reflect the receipt of private gift and donation revenues for the purpose of the project.

• SCR 14 was adopted [no RC].

SCR 20 (Johnson)

A concurrent resolution approving the conveyance of property to the State Building Authority and approving a lease among the State of Michigan, the State Building Authority, and Kellogg Community College relative to the Kellogg Community College Roll Building Renovation project.

• SCR 20 was adopted [RC 186: 37 yes, 0 no].